



# Braeside School

130 High Road, Buckhurst Hill  
Essex IG9 5SD

Tel Seniors: 020 8504 1133

Tel Juniors: 020 8504 0021

## HEADMISTRESS

MRS GILLIAN HADDON B.A. (HONS), PGCE

E-mail: [enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@braesideschool.co.uk)

Website: [www.braesideschool.co.uk](http://www.braesideschool.co.uk)

9 September 2015

Dear Parents

I am delighted to welcome you all back from your summer holidays and hope that everyone has had the opportunity to re-charge their batteries. You have all been informed recently about the exciting changes at Braeside that we have been working towards during the last few weeks. In joining the prestigious Oak-Tree Group Braeside will be able to move forward with confidence and with an enhanced range of facilities, educational opportunities and care provision. These developments will be phased in during the next academic year so definitely watch this space!

The group Principal, Mr Matthew Hagger, has already arranged opportunities to meet as many Parents as possible during the first few days of term and I know that all of you will welcome his energy and sense of purpose in developing the school and the opportunities of collaborative learning that Braeside can develop through coming together with fellow Oak-Tree Schools - Normanhurst, Oaklands and Coopersale Hall. The combined group of schools will be caring for nearly 1000 pupils this term and whilst each will retain its own unique identity the opportunities due to the economies of scale of this larger group are clear.

Matthew Hagger will be on the premises frequently in the next few weeks and will be in the Junior playground at the beginning of the school day on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday this week and will be holding meetings for Parents on the Senior site at 3.45 and 6.30pm on Thursday evening. He will also attend the S11 Transition meeting already scheduled for Thursday at 7.30pm to meet our S11 Parents. On Friday 11 September he will hold a meeting in the Junior Hall at 8.15 am for those of you who would find a morning slot more convenient than an evening arrangement. A further meeting for FOBS committee and members, which can be any of our Parent body will be held on Tuesday 15 September at 7.00pm on the Senior site. I hope that given the number of opportunities everyone will feel able to come along and meet the Mr Hagger at their earliest convenience.

### Website

A newly designed website is now live and I would encourage all of you to become familiar with it. In future the website will be the main portal for Parents to access and obtain information. School communication in respect of policies, procedures, pupil progress, newsletters, notification of visits and trips and any other updates will be communicated to you electronically and in the near future you will also be able to access this information via a mobile phone App.

### Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome to our highly qualified teaching team the following colleagues in the Seniors. Mrs Sarah Behl will be teaching RS, Ms Tracey Coleman Art and 3D work and Mrs Izzawati who will be teaching Mathematics in KS3 so that Mrs Beadle can carry out her duties as senior site Deputy Head.

On the Junior site Mrs Copeman will now take on the role of Deputy Head and Mrs Elizabeth Braithwaite will be co-ordinating our EYFS team.

We are confident that these colleagues will thoroughly enjoy working with our lovely pupils and that they will be able to develop relationships with Parents very quickly.

## **GCSE Results**

Braeside is celebrating another outstanding set of GCSE results with 88% of pupils gaining 5 or more A\* to C grades. Sciences are particularly strong at Braeside with 100% passes in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Other subjects such as Art, Drama and Geography also achieved 100% A\* to C grades.

I am delighted with the results. The girls worked so hard for their exams and deserved their grades. 71% of our pupils achieved 9 or more A\* to C grades and there were some excellent individual performances too with Dixia and Olivia achieving 16 A\* or A grades between them. Against the national trends, most pupils out-performed their targets and I'm very grateful to Braeside's team of excellent teachers whose dedication and support ensured that their pupils were prepared so thoroughly.

I would like to pass on my congratulations to all of our pupils. They are well-equipped to move on to the next stages of their education as they move to their choices of sixth form schools and colleges over the next few weeks.

## **FOBS**

The school is always enormously grateful for the help and support that FOBS gives the school. During the summer holiday they have provided the funding for the installation of a large TV screen in the Junior School Hall and have placed the order for the fitness equipment that recent fundraising has been focussed on. All being well it is due to be installed on the senior site in three weeks' time and will be ready for immediate use. We will also be arranging for Junior pupils to come up and use this facility.

We are always very grateful for investment in these areas and know that there is huge potential and great camaraderie for those Parents who would like to support the school in additional fundraising opportunities. As part of the Oak-Tree Group we look forward to joining with fellow schools for some social events and would already recommend that you put the 9 November in your diaries when there will be a magnificent firework display for everyone to enjoy on the Oaklands site.

## **Breakfast Club on the Junior Site**

This initiative was launched on Wednesday 9 September and there has already been significant interest. It runs from 7.45 am and places must be booked via the school office. Access to the site at this stage is via the **front door only**. The normal gate opening time will remain at 8.15am for the time being although this may be subject to change as new wrap around care arrangements become available during the school year.

## **Morning Routines for EYFS and Junior Pupils.**

The front door and back gate are currently opened at 8.15am.

EYFS pupils come on to site accompanied by their Parents, who escort their daughters to their teaching bases so that they can hand their children to their nominated Key Workers. Other Parents may also accompany their daughters on to the site to settle them if they wish but most of our girls feel confident about the morning cloakroom routines and indeed enjoy the responsibility of putting their personal items away before joining their friends in the playground.

Lower Kindergarten pupils who are starting with us on a mornings-only basis are picked up at 12pm via the Front Door, which is the main access to the school during the school day if there are emergencies or formal appointments with the Headmistress.

Parents come into the playground in the afternoon and wait. Class teachers will not dismiss pupils until they have clear sight of their parents or carers and will have already escorted those pupils remaining with us for post school activities for some refreshments.

Picking up pupils who attend activities scheduled to finish at 4.30pm is still via the back gate only. However pupils being collected after this time will need to be collected via the front door.

There is a short meeting at 3.30pm on Monday 14 September for Year 1 and 2 Parents to meet my class colleagues, who will outline the curriculum and expectations for the year. These meetings will be in their respective classrooms. Similar meetings for Years 3, 4 and 5 will be held on Monday 21 September and at 3.30pm. All information will also be available in written format on the website and copies will be emailed to those who are unable to attend.

Braeside has a school **Open Day on Saturday 17 October** this year and pupils from Year 1 upwards are required to attend. Prospective and current Parents are welcome to visit on this occasion to see current work and it is also an ideal opportunity to visit the senior site. Meeting staff and having a guided tour of this site allows parents to recognise the impressive continuity of care that the school offers to our older pupils.

A formal Parents Meeting is also being held on Tuesday 20 October for Y1-Y5 pupils and an appointment schedule will be arranged nearer the time to suit individual needs.

### **Morning routines for Y6 and Senior Pupils**

Pupils joining us on the Senior site are allowed to enter the building from 8am. They are not formally supervised but have an opportunity to put their personal possessions away and then move to their Form bases. The School Office has staff on duty and all caretaking activities are completed before pupils come on to site. Formal registration is at 8.40am.

Parking close to the school can cause tension when Parents don't give enough consideration to our neighbours and indeed other Parents. Ardmore Lane is a relatively narrow residential road and for that reason we do encourage Parents to drop their daughter's off on the High Road with the girls walking just a short distance to the Ardmore Lane entrance. Pupils are dismissed via this gate at the end of the school day at 3.35pm.

### **Pupil Absences from School**

If your child is unwell and unable to attend school, please telephone the school office to report the absence to a member of the team on 020 8504 1133 by 8.45am. If we do not have notification from you we will make contact at 9am in case there is a concern about the safe journey of your daughter to school. Pupils delayed on their journeys, especially our older pupils, are encouraged to phone to let us know about their difficulties.

Pupils arriving after registration times must enter the school via the front door but Parents are discouraged from driving onto the school site as the route is shared with pedestrians and may compromise safety.

Try to book medical, dental and orthodontic appointments out of school time wherever possible; if this is not possible, please notify the school in advance with the appointment details by phone, email or letter.

The legal register is maintained by us on behalf of the Department of Education and children of compulsory school age should be in school every day. Any absence has to be authorised by the school, whatever the reason. Absences due to illness must be confirmed in writing by letter or e-mail.

Requests for absence during term time for other reasons can only be approved in exceptional circumstances. If you wish to request time out of school for such a reason please contact the office for a "request for absence" form which should be completed and returned to the office. I will then confirm if the absence is authorised or unauthorised. Requests for leave must be made well in advance of the proposed date.

### **Absences from PE/Games Lessons**

If your child is in school but unable to participate in their PE lesson, please send them into school with a note for the PE staff which will be logged. Please ensure that they have their PE Kit with them because they will need to change and accompany the group even if they are not participating.

### **Homework Matters**

Homework is set and monitored from Year 1 to Year 11. Timetables reflecting the schedule and expectations for each year will be published later this week and will be adopted by staff from Monday 14 September.

## Contact Details and Medical Information

The school office asks parents this year to complete both the card sent home to them and our Parental Information and Health document which can be found online <http://www.braesideschool.co.uk/parents-pupils/forms-to-complete/>. This document is used throughout the Oak -Tree Group and in future we will be harmonising our requests in line with the rest of the group.

## Portal

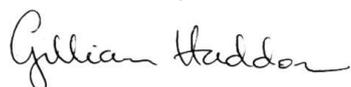
As I mentioned earlier we will be gradually moving over to a paperless system of communication with you and will be letting you know when this becomes the norm. Our new App is currently being worked on and will be available to Parents in the very near future. All school policies will be published on the web-site and details about accessing these will also be with you soon.

The pace of development under our new Group Principal will be exciting for everyone and I know that you will all recognise very quickly the benefits of us becoming part of the Oak-Tree Group. As always I will look forward to meeting with you all over the next few days and would like you to put the following immediate dates in your diary.

Thursday 10 September	S11 Transition Meeting (7.30 pm)
Monday 14 September	Year 1 & 2 Parents' Information Meeting (3.30 pm)
Monday 21 September	Year 3, 4 & 5 Parents' Information Meeting (3.30 pm)
Tuesday 22 September	Iceland Trip Parents' Meeting (7.00 pm)
Thursday 24 September	Thorpe Park BCS Visit Year 10 and Year 11 BCS GCSE Group
Friday 25 September	Roald Dahl Dress Up Day
Friday 2 October	Roald Dahl Museum Visit – Year 3
Friday 16 October	In-house Anglo Saxon Workshop – Year 5 (am)
Friday 16 October	In-house Pre-historic Workshop – Year 5 (pm)
Saturday 17 October	Open Day (10.00 am-2.00pm)
Monday 19 October	In-house Mask Workshop – Flying Pizza Theatre (pm) Years 2-6
Thursday 22 October	Harvest Assembly – Years K-6 at St James United Reform Church (1.30 pm)

With kind regards

Yours sincerely



Gillian Haddon  
Headmistress

---

**OAK-TREE SCHOOLS** is the group name of:

BRAESIDE SCHOOL, BUCKHURST HILL • COOPERSALE HALL SCHOOL, EPPING • NORMANHURST SCHOOL, NORTH CHINGFORD • OAKLANDS SCHOOL, LOUGHTON  
HEAD OFFICE ADDRESS: 6-8 ALBION HILL, LOUGHTON, ESSEX IG10 4RA

GROUP MANAGING PRINCIPAL: MR MATTHEW HAGGER B.A. (HONS), M.ED., PGCE PRINCIPALS: MR NICHOLAS HAGGER M.A. (OXON), MRS ANN HAGGER CERT. ED.

Braeside School is the trading name of Braeside School Ltd; registered in England at 6 Albion Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 4RA; company number 0783067

